

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION**

WILLIE OTIS HARRIS, JR., #614647, Petitioner,	§ § § § § § § §	3:14-CV-0649-L-BK
v.		
WILLIAMS STEPHENS, Director TDCJ-CID, Respondent.		

**FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION
OF THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

Petitioner, a Texas state prisoner, filed a *pro se* petition for a writ of habeas corpus under [28 U.S.C. § 2254](#). For the reasons that follow, it is recommended that this successive habeas petition be transferred to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

I. BACKGROUND

In 1992, Petitioner pled guilty to murder and four separate charges of aggravated robbery, and was sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment. *Harris v. State*, Nos. F91-45092, F91-45093, F91-45123, F91-70666, and F91-70667, (194th Judicial District Court, Dallas County, 1992), *aff'd*, 05-92-01377-CR, 05-92-01378-CR, 05-92-01379- CR, 05-92-01380-CR, & 05-92-01381-CR, [1993 WL 378125 \(Tex. App.--Dallas, Sept. 21, 1993, pet. ref'd\)](#). Petitioner unsuccessfully challenged his convictions in state and federal habeas proceedings. *See Harris v. Johnson*, No. 3-97-CV-0053-D (N.D. Tex. Mar. 24, 1998), *COA denied*, No. 98-10507 (5th Cir. Oct. 26, 1998) (denying habeas relief); [Harris v. Quarterman, No. 3:09-CV-1060-O, 2009 WL 2254261 \(N.D. Tex. Jul. 28, 2009\)](#) (dismissing successive federal petition without prejudice), *COA denied*, 09-10946 (5th Cir. 2010); [Harris v. Thaler, No. 3:11-CV-3402-M-BK, 2012 WL 537607\(N.D. Tex. Feb. 17, 2012\)](#) (accepting recommending and transferring successive federal

petition to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit), *COA* denied, No. 12-10197 (5th Cir. Mar. 30, 2012).

In this action, Petitioner again seeks to challenge his 1992 convictions. [Doc. 3 at 6]. He asserts the trial court lacked jurisdiction over his case because it failed to conduct a transfer hearing from the Texas Youth Commission.¹ *Id.*

II. ANALYSIS

The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 limits the circumstances under which a petitioner may file a second or successive application for federal habeas relief. *See* [28 U.S.C. § 2244\(b\)](#). In general, to raise a new claim, the petitioner must show that the successive application is based on: (1) a new rule of constitutional law made retroactive to cases on collateral review by the Supreme Court; or (2) newly discovered evidence that, if proven and viewed in light of the evidence as a whole, would be sufficient to establish by clear and convincing evidence that no reasonable fact finder would have found him guilty of the offense. *See* [28 U.S.C. § 2244\(b\)\(2\)](#). Before a petitioner may file his application in the district court, however, a three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit must determine whether the application makes the requisite *prima facie* showing. *See* [28 U.S.C. § 2244\(b\)\(3\)\(A\) and \(B\)](#). Section 2244(b)(3)(A) constitutes a bar to the district court's jurisdiction to consider a successive habeas petition unless the United States Court of Appeals has first granted the petitioner permission to file such a petition. [United States v. Key, 205 F.3d 773, 774 \(5th Cir. 2000\)](#) (*per curiam*) (section 2255 motion); *see also* [Crone v. Cockrell, 324 F.3d 833, 836 \(5th Cir. 2003\)](#) (section 2254 habeas petition).

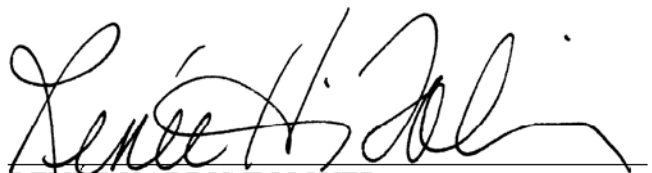
¹ For the sake of judicial economy, since this is Petitioner's third successive habeas corpus action, the Court does not issue a deficiency order requiring the \$5 filing fee or an *in forma pauperis* motion.

The United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit has not issued an order authorizing this Court to consider the successive petition in this case. Because Petitioner must obtain such an order before he can file a successive application challenging his conviction, his [section 2254](#) petition should be transferred to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit Court. See [Henderson v. Haro, 282 F.3d 862, 864 \(5th Cir. 2002\)](#); [In re Epps, 127 F.3d 364, 365 \(5th Cir. 1997\)](#).

III. RECOMMENDATION

For the foregoing reasons, it is recommended that the successive habeas petition be **TRANSFERRED** to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. See [28 U.S.C. § 2244\(b\)\(3\)](#).

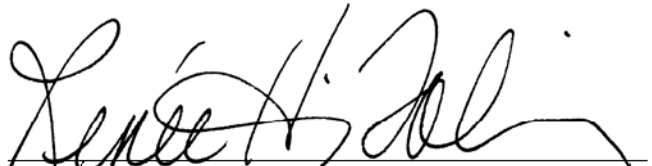
SIGNED February 24, 2014.



RENEE HARRIS TOLIVER
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SERVICE AND
NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL/OBJECT**

A copy of this report and recommendation will be served on all parties in the manner provided by law. Any party who objects to any part of this report and recommendation must file specific written objections within 14 days after being served with a copy. See [28 U.S.C. § 636\(b\)\(1\)](#); [FED. R. CIV. P. 72\(b\)](#). In order to be specific, an objection must identify the specific finding or recommendation to which objection is made, state the basis for the objection, and specify the place in the magistrate judge's report and recommendation where the disputed determination is found. An objection that merely incorporates by reference or refers to the briefing before the magistrate judge is not specific. Failure to file specific written objections will bar the aggrieved party from appealing the factual findings and legal conclusions of the magistrate judge that are accepted or adopted by the district court, except upon grounds of plain error. See [Douglass v. United Services Automobile Ass'n](#), 79 F.3d 1415, 1417 (5th Cir. 1996).


RENEE HARRIS TOLIVER
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE